

1     Claims

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3     1. Apparatus for deblistering a pharmaceutical  
4     blister pack having a number of product blisters and  
5     a lidding material thereover, the apparatus  
6     comprising a pack holding means adapted to hold the  
7     blister pack and means to transfer the pack into and  
8     out of alignment with an operating position, the  
9     operating position having a lidding material cutting  
10    means and a blister punching means on opposing sides  
11    thereof.

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13    2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pack  
14    holding means has a series of indentations.

15

16    3. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pack  
17    holding means has a series of holes extending  
18    through the pack holding means.

19

20    4. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3  
21    wherein the pack holding means retains the blister  
22    pack through one or more retaining and/or  
23    restraining means.

24

25    5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
26    claims wherein the pack holding means is retained by  
27    a plate transfer means.

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29    6. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the plate  
30    transfer means is adapted to provide movement of the  
31    pack holding means into and out of alignment of the  
32    operating position.

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2 7. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the plate  
3 transfer means is guided in its movement, optionally  
4 by one or more arms, guide rails and/or pins.

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6 8. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
7 claims wherein the pack holding means is moveable  
8 into and out of alignment of the operating position  
9 in one movement.

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11 9. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
12 claims wherein the pack holding means is moveable  
13 when out of alignment with the operating position.

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15 10. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
16 claims wherein the lidding material cutting means  
17 includes a number of cutting pieces such as studs.

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19 11. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the  
20 cutting pieces are attached to a carrier plate so as  
21 to be simultaneously operable.

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23 12. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10 or Claim 11  
24 wherein the cutting pieces are in a pattern which is  
25 complementary to the position of the blisters on the  
26 pack to be deblistered.

27

28 13. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
29 claims wherein the cutting means is changeable.

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1 14. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
2 claims wherein the cutting means is moveable between  
3 a rest position and a cutting position.

4  
5 15. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
6 claims wherein the blister punching means acts  
7 indirectly on the blisters.

8  
9 16. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding  
10 claims wherein the pack holding means is wholly or  
11 substantially in a vertical position in the  
12 operating position.

13  
14 17. A method of deblistering a pharmaceutical  
15 blister pack having a number of product blisters  
16 covered by a lidding material, comprising the steps  
17 of:

18  
19 locating the blister pack on a pack holding means  
20 having complementary pockets corresponding to the  
21 blisters of the blister pack,

22  
23 transferring the pack holding means into an  
24 operating position in alignment with a lidding  
25 material cutting means and a blister punching means,

26  
27 wholly, substantially or partly cutting the lidding  
28 material by activation of the cutting means,

29  
30 deblistering the contents of the product blisters by  
31 engagement of the blister punching means such that  
32 the contents are without the blister pack, and

1  
2 moving the deblistered blister pack out of alignment  
3 with the operating position.  
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5 18. A method as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the pack  
6 holding means is wholly or substantially horizontal  
7 when locating the blister pack thereon.  
8

9 19.A method as claimed in Claim 17 or Claim 18  
10 wherein the pack holding means is wholly or  
11 substantially vertical in the operating position.  
12

13 20.A method as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 19  
14 wherein the cutting means and/or blister punching  
15 means are linearly moveable between a rest position  
16 and an engagement position.  
17

18 21. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to  
19 20 wherein the pack holding means and/or blister  
20 pack are wholly or substantially stationary during  
21 engagement of the cutting means and blister punching  
22 means.  
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